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MAY 14 1937 ☆

U. S. Department of Agriculture

American Federation
of
Government Employees

Lodge 31 A.F.G.E.

Affiliated with
American Federation
of Labor

Vol. 2, No. 4

May, 1937

UNION, BUREAU CHIEFS AGREE ON PATENTS.

On April 7, representatives of Lodge 31 met with a Special Committee appointed from the Secretary's Office to arrive at a procedure to remedy the abuses incurred in the submission of employees' applications for patents. After full and free discussion it was jointly agreed to submit the following for action by the Secretary:

"That an official memorandum be sent and circulated among the Bureaus and Divisions concerned, containing:

1. An interpretation of the patent law in regard to government employees and an explanation of the Solicitor's Office ruling of the same.

2. A definite procedure which the Bureaus and Divisions must follow in the transmittal of employee patents as follows:

a. After applications are submitted by the Bureau they shall be handled with reasonable dispatch.

b. The Bureau shall forward the application for recommendations to the legal interpretation. In case of difference of opinion, all pertinent facts shall be submitted. The final decision made by the Bureau shall be transmitted back to the applicant and the Chief of the Bureau in case of a difference of opinion.

c. If no request for reconsideration is received from the Chief of the Bureau or from the inventor-employee within thirty days, the opinion of the legal aspects will become final, provided the acceptance of the opinion may be communicated to the Solicitor at any time within the thirty days."

Lodge 31 is seeking the co-operation of the A.F.G.E. in sponsoring a special meeting to bring home to Agriculture employees the significance of our union promotions agreement. This agreement is now in the final stages of negotiation with Department officials.

The date and further detail will be announced by a special notice soon.

cations for patents applicant they shall be submitted quickly and

Chief must submit patent with his re-Secretary for final In the event of a full disclosure of must be submitted. by the legal author- shall be transmitted

The Union Committee consisted of Louis Matosoff, chairman, J. A. Schricker, Martin Leatherman, and Dr. L. N. Markwood. The latter, who is president of the American Institute of Chemists, agreed to sit with the Union Committee. The Department Committee consisted of Mr. Lee A. Strong, Chief, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils and Mr. Harry N. Foss of the Solicitor's Office. Dr. Frederick C. Howe, special advisor to the Secretary, sat as observer. The other members of the Department Committee, Dr. John R. Mohler, Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry, and Mr. F. D. Richey, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry were unavoidably absent.

We expect shortly to secure from the Secretary's Office the above agreement. We believe the union has handled its job satisfactorily in securing this agreement.



STATION A.F.G.E. LODGE 31

BROADCASTING

● A DANCE TO BE HELD MAY 20th

● AT THE BROADMOOR HOTEL

● DANCING TO MAXIN LOWES'
SHOREHAM MUSIC

● BEAR IN MIND THE DATE

● DO NOT FAIL TO BE THERE

● A GALA EVENT IS IN
STORE FOR YOU!

SEE YOU ON THE 20TH

— FOR TICKETS SEE —

JOHN A. SCHRICKER

ROOM 3630

SOUTH BLDG.

— Post Mortems —

President John A. Schricker, at our Bowling Party on April 10, proved that he not only was a leader in the union but also a "cracker-jack" bowler! He came away with the first prize. Della Cogan won the prize for high score amongst the "lassies." The "booby" prize went to Claire Hirschfield --- inasmuch as this was Claire's first game, the rest of you had better watch out!

Excellent weather and a good turnout helped make the Picnic on April 17 a success. Those who attended enjoyed games, songs and refreshments.

The surprise of the day was entertainment furnished by Vice-President James Maxwell's young daughter, who played a number of beautiful solos on her violin!

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PEACE MEETING PASSES RESOLUTIONS
FIGHTING WAR AND FASCISM.
MRS. ROOSEVELT SENDS GREETING.

Only by actively expressing their anti-war sentiment and creating a mass public opinion against war can the American people prevent the United States from being misled into another war as she was twenty years ago. This was the key note of the peace meeting addresses made by Senator Frazier and Representative Allen at the peace meeting of the Women's Trade Union League and allied organizations at Barker Hall Auditorium April 27.

In discussing the situation in the United States today, both Senator Frazier and Representative Allen stressed those factors which are already putting the country on a militaristic basis in preparation for war -- the huge naval appropriations, the Sheppard-Hill industrial mobilization plan put before Congress which embodies a completely dictatorial war set-up of our economy, the widespread attacks on democratic rights, and above all the menace of a fascism that "can happen here."

In this connection Representative Allen very strongly attacked the Liberty League and other such groups which merely pay lip service to democracy and discard it when it no longer serves their ends. Our only defense is not, as they would have it, dictatorship, but democracy and more democracy! The eradication of economic and social inequalities which create the discontent the fascists utilize to set up a dictatorship that must inevitably lead to war.

Fascism and war can be prevented by an aroused public opinion fighting against each and every manifestation of the war spirit.

At the end of the meeting the following resolutions were passed:

The establishment of special trade union committees to work against war and fascism.

USDA ORGANIZER published monthly by Lodge 31, A.F.G.E.	
EDITOR	Della Cogan
ASSOCIATE EDITORS	
Nellie Shaffer	Louis Matosoff
Simon Rottenberg	
(Circulation 4,000)	

A resolution expressing the Women's Trade Union League's determination to fight against the development of fascism both at home and abroad, since it is now obvious that the policies of fascism are bound up with and inevitably lead to war.

A resolution opposing the Sheppard-Hill bill.

A motion was made that copies of the resolutions be sent to the President, the Press and to Congress.

Mrs. Roosevelt sent a letter to the mass meeting expressing sympathy with the meeting and regretting her inability to attend.

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LODGE 31 TO MEET WITH
MR. BYRD ON A.A.A. PROBLEM

As we go to press your Grievance Committee reports that it has arranged for a meeting with Mr. Byrd to discuss the problems of the employees in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Program, A.A.A.

Though no furloughs, to our knowledge have yet been given to employees on this program, we consider it extremely important to clarify their status now and for the future.

Following our meeting with Mr. Byrd, a special notice will be issued.

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MARYLAND — DISTRICT

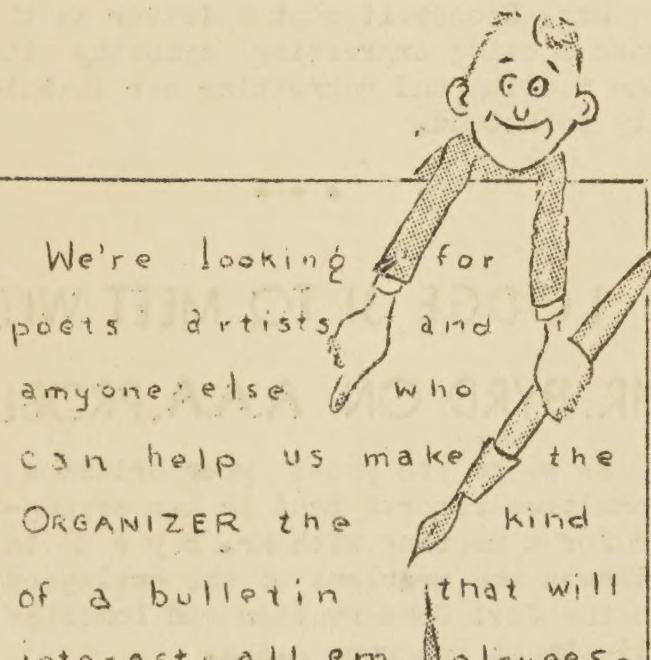
A. F. OF L. CONVENTION TO MEET

On May 17 the Maryland State and District of Columbia Federation of the American Federation of Labor will hold its annual convention in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Lodge 31's delegates will seek endorsement of the A.F.G.E. Legislative Program: establishment of a \$1500 minimum salary; repeal of the "married persons' clause," Section 213; 30 year optional retirement; 30 hour week, etc.

A report of the convention will be given at the regular union meeting following same.

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We're looking for
poets artists and
anyone else who
can help us make the
ORGANIZER the kind
of a bulletin that will
interest all employees.
If you can help in any
way drop a line to the
editor — it will be more
than welcome!

DELLA COGAN

Rm. 2754 South BLDG

WHAT THE OTHER

LODGES ARE DOING

LABOR LODGE 12

The Adjustment Committee of Labor Lodge 12 has succeeded in obtaining reclassification and pay increases for a number of the employees in the Consumers Division.

As a result of Labor Lodge's membership drive 100 new members have joined the union during the past three months.

Lodge 12 has succeeded in obtaining a preferential reemployment list for people dismissed through no fault of their own.

RESETTLEMENT LODGE 206

Resettlement Lodge 206 is working in cooperation with Lodge 31 on a program of job security. Dismissals are still coming thick and fast. The program provides for non-competitive examinations for non-civil service employees to give them a rating which will make them eligible for openings in Civil Service agencies. The program also calls for reemployment on new projects which may open up government employees dismissed due to curtailed program before new people are taken on.

W.P.A. LODGE 139

W.P.A. Lodge sponsored an inter-city conference of W.P.A. units throughout the country to discuss the threatened slashes in personnel. The meeting took place April 2 at the Willard Hotel. The delegates were addressed by Congressman Voorhies of California, Eli Oliver of Labor's Non-Partisan League, Willis Morgan of the Workers' Alliance and others. Representatives of the conference called on Harry Hopkins April 6 and asked for the setting up of new research projects to absorb the unemployed white collar workers and extension of Civil Service status to all W.P.A. administrative and research employees.

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GET WISE IT PAYS. TO ORGANIZE!

A year has passed since Agriculture Lodge 31, Professional and Technical Lodge 121 and Agricultural Adjustment Administration Lodge 170 combined to form a new and rejuvenated LODGE 31. It has been a year of hard work, of constant effort on the part of active union members to carry out the principles of union organization --- to build a truly representative union that will deal energetically with employee problems --- to educate employees to the stark necessity of such organization --- AND TO BRING THEM IN!

The Grievance Committee of Lodge 31 has been increasingly active in making representations to the Administration on behalf of employees. Several grievances have been satisfactorily adjusted, a few somewhat less so, and some are still in the process of arbitration. Notable among the satisfactory adjustments is the patents case mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Among those in process is the Promotions Agreement. For the latter we feel that we merit Department-wide support. We feel that all employees owe it to the union to GIVE US NUMBERS and BACKING in support of this program.

We of the "union" are employees just as you are. We have been educated to the truism that IT PAYS TO ORGANIZE! Take the last page from our bulletin the ORGANIZER --- clip the membership application, fill it out and send it in to our President, John Adams Schricker, Room 3630, South Agriculture Building. Enroll in a course of ORGANIZATION FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS!

Just a word more Every 100 additional members we get is worth one stage of audio frequency amplification when the Administration is listening to our program. Get busy and JOIN LODGE 31!

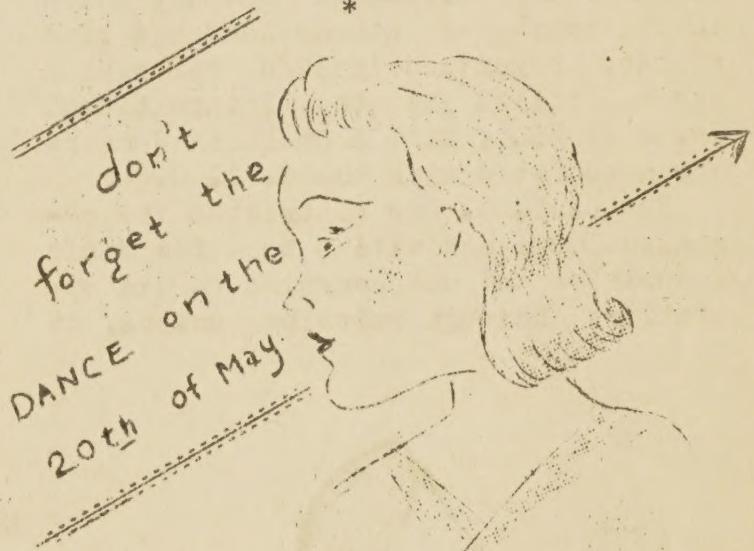
IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH

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ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S
CROSSWORD PUZZLE.

ON THE LABOR FRONT

Two events of the past few weeks carry an ominous note for the future of the labor movement.

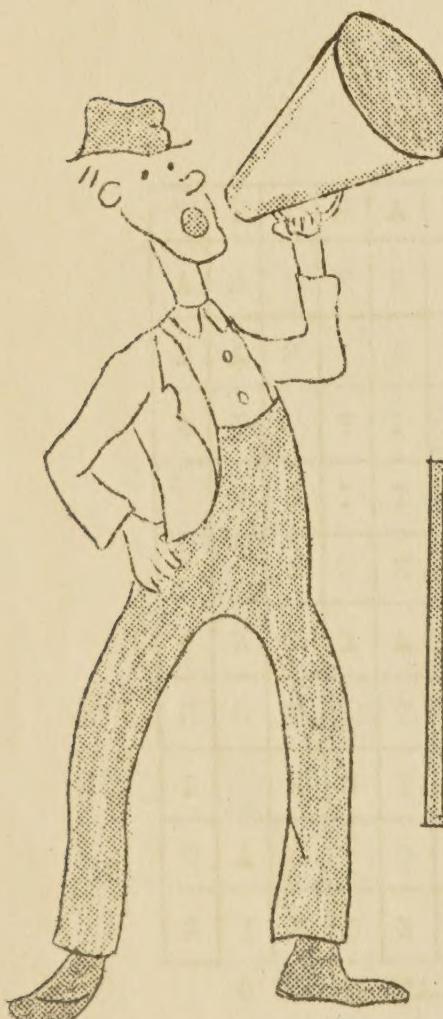
The first occurred when John P. Frey head of the Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L. negotiated with company-dominated unions to secure their affiliation with the Federation. The second is the recent tentative affiliation of the "blue-card" company union in the southeast Kansas lead and zinc fields, organized in 1935 to break a strike called by the International Union of Mine, Mill & Smelter Workers now associated with the C. I. O.

The C. I. O. has restricted its organizational activities to a few basic industries and has carried on its operations through existing unions; it

has been overzealous in its caution in refraining from impinging upon the jurisdiction of A. F. of L. unions already in the field and has many times referred workers in the skilled trades to the A. F. of L. union; it has repeatedly declined to carry on organizational work which would entail the establishment of a rival union in spite of requests which labor groups have poured in upon its offices; it has persisted in affirming its wish for the reconstitution of a unified labor movement.

It is unfortunate that the course pursued by the Executive Council has not been as prudent as that of the C. I. O.

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NOW IS THE TIME FOLKS

JOIN AGRICULTURE
LODGE 31

AND WATCH US GO PLACES

Name _____	Date _____
Home Address _____	
Bureau _____	Bldg. _____
Room No. _____	Office Phone No. _____
Initiation Fee - - - \$1.00	

Fill out this blank and send in to John A.
Schricker, Room 3630, South Agriculture Bldg.